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CASPER

A COLLIER, HALLENBACK, CONYN, NAME

by

William Miller Collier

1949

A CAREER

by

William Miller Collier

1949

PRESENTED TO: Iowa State Department of History and Archives

BY
WILLIAM MILLER COLLIER
c/o NATIONAL BANK OF AUBURN
AUBURN, NEW YORK

AND
DONALD COLLIER McCLURE
303 NORTH MAIN STREET
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

LIBRARIANS WILL CONFER A FAVOR IF THEY WILL INDEX:

1. To name of the author, William Miller Collier
2. To the title as given at the head of the article
3. To the name of the addressee, John Casper McClure
4. To <u>each</u> of the family names:
   Collier, McClure, Hallenbeck (Hollenbeck, etc.)
   Conyn, Bronck and Van Hoesen. Concerning <u>each</u>
   of these families, there is important genealogical
   information in the article, not published elsewhere.

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A PRIVATE FAMILY DOCUMENT

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CASPER

a Collier, Hallenbeck, Conyn name
with
memoranda as to bearers of it
and
incidental reference to Colliers named
Jochem (Jehoiakim), Michael and Isaac
by
William Miller Collier
of
Auburn, New York.

1918976

Addressed to John Casper McClure, - for him and for all bearers of any of these Christian names belonging to the Collier or affiliated families.

August 5th, 1949

My dear Cousin:

I was pleased when I learned that your father's middle name was Collier, the family name of his mother, Anna Collier, my first cousin, whom I knew very well in my youth and whom I admired greatly because of her beauty and fine character.

It was, however, with a real thrill of pleasure that I later learned that you had been given the middle name of Casper; for, not only is it a name borne by and honored by your direct American ancestors and many collateral relatives in all the generations since about the year 1620, but it is also a name rich in its significance and glorious in its associations and euphonious in the various forms in which it appears in English as well as in the many languages of Continental Europe where its use is not uncommon.

Casper and Caspar (take your choice) and Kasper and Kaspar are all variations of the ancient Greek name, Gaspar. He was one of the Three Wise Men, or Magi, or the Three Kings,

who, nearly 2000 years ago, meditating in their respective countries, as to the problems of man's life and destiny, searching their own souls and yearnings, studying ancient lore and gazing into the heavens for a possible answer, saw a marvelous light in the skies. Following its guidance they travelled over vast areas until they met in Bethlehem of Judea where they found a new-born babe, the Saviour of mankind, before whom they knelt in adoration and to whom they made gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar were their names. Gaspar, Cassa-bar, or Casper, to anglicize his Greek name, was the bearer of the cassa or treasure chest, the giver of the gold.

Through the ages, men have held these three names in highest reverence. Royalty and nobility have proudly borne them. They have been used not with so much frequency as to make them flippant; yet not so rarely as to make them eccentric. Casper and Melchior appear quite often in New Netherlands Colonial records, Caspar occasionally in its Latin form, Casparus.

As long as man seeks to learn the Truth, so long will the pilgrimage of these Three Wise Men of the East, serve as an inspiration. It is one of the most interesting stories of the Bible. It is enshrined in imperishable literature. General Lew Wallace graphically tells it in "Ben Hur", and I think these two books and a Prayer-book and a copy of the Collier-Colyer genealogy should form a part of the library of every Casper of our family, and of all the other Caspers who have been endowed with this beautiful name.

Epiphany or "Twelfth Night" is the day dedicated by the

Church to the glorification of these three great Pilgrims; and countless millions observe it. The greatest masters of painting have portrayed their journey guided by the Star of Bethlehem, and their worshipful veneration, as, exultantly yet adoringly, they - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar - found Him whom they so long and so laboriously had sought, and placed before Him their gifts. Every year on Christmas, or, in Catholic countries, on Twelfth Night, millions upon millions of cards are sent from friend to friend; and the Magi appear on a great proportion of them. Next to the Saviour, and the Holy Family and the Apostles, few characters in History or Fiction have been more frequently or more majestically portrayed.

The first American Collier to bear the name Casper was the fourth son of Michael 2 Collier and his wife Tytje Van Hoesen. He was baptized at Kinderhook, N. Y. by the Dutch Reformed dominie of Albany on January 2, 1702. He was named after his uncle Casper Van Hoesen and his great grandfather Caspar Jacobse, one of the early settlers of Rensselaerwyck and old Albany County who, according to Mr. A. J. F. Van Laer, former State Archivist of New York, probably came from Holabeek in Schleswig. He or his sons adopted Hallenbeck (also variantly spelled Halenbeck, Holenbeck and Hollenbeck) as the family name.

Although this, in some one of its forms, was probably used colloquially from a date soon after his arrival, it first appears of record in the baptism in 1685 of Elizabeth, daughter of his son, Jacob Casperse Hallenbeck.

During the first two generations the patronymic Casperse

(child of Casper) was used quite as frequently as the family name, even by daughters after their marriage to men of other family names. For instance, at least 30 years after her marriage to Jurrian Janse Van Hoesen, our ancestress, Catharine, daughter of Casper Jacobse and mother of Titje Van Hoesen, second wife of Michael 2 Collier, appears as Catharine Casperse in the Lutheran Church record of the baptism of Titje's son Jacob Collier, with her brother Jan Casperse Halenbeek as co-sponsor; and about the same time, with the same brother as co-sponsor, she appears on the record as Catherine Van "Husum" (Van Hoesen) at the baptism of another grandson of hers, Johannes Van Hoesen.

All the sisters and brothers seemed very tenacious of their right to be known as Casperse. Tenacity is a Dutch virtue. It is what enables the Hollanders of today, with their dykes, to hold back the restless ocean from swamping their land.

Mr. Richard Schermerhorn, Jr., an eminent genealogist, has made an exhaustive study of all the descendants of Casper Jacobse A copy of it is in the Library of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. He calculates that he was born in Europe, 1620-1630. Whether he may possibly have been born several years prior to 1620 will be considered by me later in this letter in connection with Agnietje Casparse (sometimes called Angenietje) wife of Leendert Philipse Conyn, ancestors of you and me.

The name of Casper Jacobse's wife is not known; but as nearly every one of his sons and daughters named one of their eldest daughters Elizabeth and as one of his own daughters was Elizabeth, it is believed by Mr. Schermerhorn that that was her name. It was a

firmly fixed Dutch custom to name the eldest daughter after one of her grandmothers, and to name the eldest son after the paternal grandfather. Another oft-recurring name in the families of the sons of Caspar Jacobse was Mary (Marika). This suggests the possibility that Casper Jacobse was married twice. We have no record whatever as to any marriage by him; but the possibility of his having had two wives must not be forgotten. He probably married his first wife in Europe.

The earliest Colonial records as to him are:

> 1651, dwelling at Beverwyck, (the original name of Albany) when he received a lease of a house and lot in Beverwyck which he sold in 1657; in 1663, he purchased a lot for a garden at Fort Orange. On Aug. 1, 1687, "Kasper on the Hill requests permission to buy a pasture of Jan Baptist Rensselaer"; and the final record of him which I have found is: November 1, 1687, a reference to "a pasture south of Albany, near the old Fort, late in ye tenure and occupation of Casper Jacobse".

Jonathan Pearson, a professor in Union College in the late XIX Century, was a highly recognized authority on Albany and Schenectady Dutch settlers. He says that Casper Jacobse made a will in September, 1685. This is not unlikely, although there is no other reference to it, and no record of it. Pearson also says that Casper Jacobse died in August, 1703; but he cites no authority. Various errors in Pearson's printed books have been found, and although they are still very valuable reference books, they are not considered infallible.

Personally, I would like record evidence before believing that Casper Jacobse lived until 1703. He had many grandchildren born after 1687 for whom he would naturally have acted as sponsor.

I find no records of his acting in that capacity, although the existing Albany Reformed Dutch Church records go back to 1683. The Lutheran records for that vicinity started, I think about 1703. If any reader of this letter, at any time, finds further information as to Casper Jacobse's birth or death, I will be grateful for it.

The sons of Caspar Jacobse were: Jacob Casperse, born about 1654; Jan Casperse, about 1655, and Isaac Casperse, 1660. The last date is confirmed by the record of his death in 1709, aged 49 years. The daughters were Catharine Casperse, born according to Schermerhorn about 1648, and Elizabeth, born about 1650, who married a Lansing (ancestor of Robert Lansing, Secretary of State under President Wilson). There was also a daughter, name unknown, who married a Ver Wey. Mr. A. J. F. Van Lear, who is one of the greatest authorities on old Albany and Rensellaerwyck settlers, told me many years ago that he supposed that Agnietje Casperse was the daughter of Casper Jacobse (Hollenbeck). He thought there was no other Casper in the vicinity of Albany or Rensellaerwyck from whom the name could be derived.

The question is most interesting to you and me and to all Colliers who descend from Lt. Colonel Casper^5 Collier and his wife, Ann Bron(c)k, through whom we descend from the Conyns in four lines, for, if Agnietje Casparse was the daughter of Caspar Jacobse (Hollenbeck) then the astonishing thing is that he is your great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather (& G. Grandfather) in five lines of descent. One of these lines is

through your great-great grandmother, Jane Whitbeck, wife of Isaac Casper[6] Collier (1797-1873). This line of descent from Casper Jacobse is one generation longer than that which leads back to your Collier progenitor, Jochem Collier, notwithstanding that Jochem is of record in New Amsterdam as early as 1643, whereas Casper Jacobse's arrival in America was probably several years later.

At this point, I am tempted to digress and say that neither of them was your earliest American ancestor. You are directly descended from the parents of the first child born in New Netherlands, Jan Vigne, who was certainly born not later than 1623. He was the son of Guelyn Vigne and his wife, Adrienne Cuvellier (Cuvilje). You do not descend from Jan himself; he may have died childless; no child of his is mentioned in his will. But you do descend from his sister, Maria, who married Abraham Isaacse Verplanck. The daughter of their son, Isaac, married a Whitbeck and the line comes down through my grandmother, JaneWhitbeck, wife of Isaac[6] Collier to whom I have just referred. No one can claim an earlier New Netherlands ancestry than you and I and the other Colliers, who are descended from this couple. See Collier Family Chart compiled by me. Your father has a copy of an early edition of it; many Genealogical libraries have it.

Even if you do not descend from Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck) through Agnietje Casparse, that is, even if she was not his daughter, you nevertheless unquestionably descend from him through his daughter Catharine Casperse, mother of Tytje Van Hoesen,

wife of Michael[2] Collier; and <u>this is true of every Collier who descends from Michael.</u>

Keep in mind also that even if Agnietje Casperse was not the daughter of Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck) she and her husband, Leenders Philipe Conyn, are your ancestors in four lines.

Mr. Schermerhorn calculates, inferentially, that Agnietje Casperse could not have been born later than 1642, and he does not believe that Casper Jacobse could have been her father. I, myself, have recently discovered a record in the New York Dutch Church which apparently had not been considered in this connection by either Mr. Van Laer, Mr. Schermerhorn or Prof. Pierson.

It is as follows: Oct. 13, 1652, baptized, Annetie, child of Leendert Philips; sponsors, Gerritt Bicker, Grietje Jans, Agniet Caspers. There can be no doubt that this was Leendert Philipse Conyn, and the Agnietje Casperse who then or later was his wife. I think this was their daughter, Annetje, who later married Cornelis Tunisse Van Vechten, but it may have been another of the same or similar name.

Agniet's name in the record under consideration appears as if she were a sponsor. Ordinarily there was only one female sponsor, although occasionally a friend of the mother carried the infant to the baptismal font without being a sponsor. In such cases the record stated: "By" (that is, carried by) and the name of the person who carried the child was given; sometimes a very young person did. But no such entry appears herein. Rarely, if ever, in the early Colonial days, did a mother act as sponsor. Yet if Agniet Caspers was really a sponsor then she must have married Leendert

Philipse later, and of that there is no record. This fact and the fact that it was not customary to have more than one female sponsor makes it possible that there is an error in the record, and that Agniet Casperse was the wife of Leendert Philipse at the time of the birth of Annette in 1652. If so, Agniet could hardly have been less than 16 years of age; that is, born in 1636, and her own father could hardly have been less than 20 years old when she (Agniet) was born; that is, her father would not have been born later than 1616, which is four years earlier than the earliest date for the birth of Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck) as estimated by Mr. Schermerhorn. Biologically it may be possible that the father of Agniet Caspers was born as late as 1620; yet, in my opinion, it is quite likely to have been even earlier than 1616, say 1610 or 1612.

But even if he were born as late as 1616, and lived, as Prof. Pearson said Casper Jacobse did, until 1703, he would have been 87 years old at his death. If born as early as 1610, he would have been 93 years at his death. Either age is not impossible; yet both are exceptional and throw doubt upon Caspar Jacobse (Hallenbeck) being the father of Agnietje Casparse, the wife of Leendert Philipse Conyn. Moreover, if she were born in 1636 (and I cannot believe that Agniet Caspers, the mother of the infant who was baptized in 1652, was less than 16 years old at that time, although, of course, it is biologically possible and the age of consent in the Dutch Colonial period was shockingly low) - I repeat - if Agnietje Caspers was born in 1636, she was 24 years older than Isaac Casperse, the youngest son of Casper Jacobse. Yet despite this discrepancy of ages, it is possible, even

if Casper Jacobse had only one wife. However, to the extent that it is exceptional, it is doubtful until proven.

We must admit and must remember that if Agniet Caspers was really the sponsor at the baptism in 1652 (as the record says) and not then the wife of Leendert Philipse, her age could conceivably have been a few years less than 16, especially if she carried the infant to the font, but we remain confronted with these questions: Why were there two female sponsors; if she carried the infant to the font, why does not the record so state as was the custom; and what evidence is there that Leendert Philipse married twice?

We are handicapped in efforts to determine the birth dates of the children of Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck) and their relationship toother parties by the fact that all of them, and many of the grandchildren, and all of the children of Leendert Philipse Conyn were born before the earliest existing records of the Albany Dutch Church, 1683, and the Lutheran Records for that section beginning about 1703. We can gleam some information from the minutes of the local courts, which go back to about the founding of Beverawyck and Rensselaerwyck, but much of our knowledge must be gained by a comparative study of later records of births, marriages and deaths in which reference is incidentally made to the older persons.

Such a study of the records shows that the children of Elizabeth Casperse (Lansing), and Catharine Casperse (Van Hoesen) and of Jan Casperse and Isaac Casperse Hallenbeck, so frequently acted as sponsors at the baptisms of their respective children, or witnesses at their marriages, that, with the help of specific state-

ments of relationships in the records, we are able to prove they were all brothers and sisters of each other. It is in this way that we prove conclusively that Catharine Casperse was the mother of Tytje Van Heesen.

I have made an extended search of the records in which Conyns acted as sponsors for the Hallenbecks to see if it can be fairly inferred from any of them that Agnietje Casperse was a sister of the various Casperses above mentioned, who have been demonstrated to be children of Casper Jacobse.

I shall refer to a few of them which, if not fully considered in all their bearings, might seem to establish that fact, although I do not believe that they do so absolutely beyond all doubt. Nevertheless, I shall, in the most succinct form possible, give them to you, and I have less hesitancy in doing so, because even if they do not prove that Agnietje Casperse was Casper Jacobse's daughter, every one of these records does refer to a Conyn who like Agnietje herself, is a direct ancestor of ours, or a brother and sister of that Conyn. Incidentally, I would say that that family, in which the names Philip and Leendert and Casper recurred for generations, was long one of the most highly respected and well connected on "both sides of the river"(the Hudson), in the vicinity of Coxsackie and Catskill on the west bank; and of Claverack, Hudson and Kinderhook on the east bank. Yet today I never run across the name Conyn in printed book or daily press. If any Conyn relative of ours will write me, I shall be obliged.

Here then are records of baptisms in which some of your Conyn ancestors (descendants of Agnietje Casperse) acted as sponsor

for children of William Jans Hallenbeck, son of Jan Casperse H., (I will abbreviate) and his wife, Fytje Dirckse Van Vechten (daughter of Dirck Theunisse Van Vechten of Catskill, one of our most prominent Colonial ancestors from whom we descend in four lines). All matter in parentheses in this statement as to baptisms is my own comment.

At bap. of Samuel Hallenbeck, b apr. 30, 1703; bap. June 1. Sponsors: Philip Leendertse Conyn and Anna "do". (Evidently a Conyn. She was not Philip Leendertse's wife. If she was his sister, who married, I believe a Gansevoort, or sister who married Cornelis Tunisse Van Vechten, there would be some reason for believing that their mother, Agnietje Casperse, was the daughter of Casper Jacobse).

At bap. of Casper, son of William Jans H. and Fytje Dircks Van Vechten, born Oct. 24, 1705 (O.S., that is, Old Style calendar, when the year began in March). Bap. (the following) Jan. 7, 1705; Sponsors were Jurrian Claus, Lyntje (Dutch pet name for Lavinia) Conyn. (probably the wife of Ph.Leendertse Conyn).

At bap. of Abraham (same parents as above); born Dec. 5, 1708; bap. Jan. 1, 1708 (O.K.). Sponsors: Dirk (sic) Conyn (probably son of Ph. Leendertse Conyn); and Antie Van Vechten (probably sister or cousin of the infant's mother).

At bap. of Jannetje, daughter of William Jans H. and Fytje Dirckse V. V., b. June 13, 1713; bap. July 5, 1713; sponsors: Jacob Mulder, Philip Conyn (prob. son of Ph. Leendertse Conyn) and Katie Rensselaer.

All the above baptisms would strongly suggest that Philip Leendertse Conyn was related by blood to the Hallenbecks, and would justify an inference that his mother Agnietje, was the daughter of Casper Jacobse, were it not that Philip Leendertse's wife was the sister of the mother of these infants, and it is more probable that he was asked to be a sponsor for that reason than because of blood relationship between the Hallenbecks and himself, because I do not find that he acted as sponsor for the children of any Hallenbeck (or Hollenbeck) except for those of his brother-in-law William Janse; nor do I find any of the early Hallenbecks or Casperses acting as sponsors or witnesses for Conyns. I would appreciate confirmation or correction of this statement by any reader.

Dirck Hallenbeck, eldest son of William Janse H. and Fytje D. V. V. married in 1722, Comertje Conyn, daughter of Caspar Leendertse Conyn and niece of an earlier Comertje Leendertse Conyn, who had married our ancestor Jan Bronk. At the baptism of this Dircks's eldest daughter, Fytje, June 9, 1723, Sponsors were "Jan Hallenbeck and Lybitie Conyn". Whoever Lybitie was (possibly a sister of the infant's mother) she presumably acted because of her relationship to the Conyn mother rather than to the Hallenbecks.

In my search for evidence that Agnietje Casperse Conyn, Elizabeth (or Lysbeth) Caspanse Lansing and "Jan Casperse Hallenbeck ofCox ackie" were sisters and brother, I have found three records which have interested me to the degree commonly called "intriguing". On July 29, 1684 - <u>the same day and same hour and in the same church a grandchild of each of these three Casperses was baptized.</u> This coincidence received my earnest attention, and I feel that any person

caring to identify Agnietje Casperse will desire to look into it; and as one of the infants was direct ancestor of yours, and as the others are collaterals, I will give you the records to show you that I have tried to be thorough in my search for your Caspers and their relatives.

The infants were:

1. Philip, son of Philip Leendertsz Conyn and Wyntje Dircksz; witnesses: Teunis Dircksz (Van Vechten) (brother of infant's mother and an ancestor of yours), Casper Leendertsz (Conyn), Feytje Dircksz (sister of infant's mother).
2. Lysbeth, daughter of Huybert Gerritz and Maria Lansing; witnesses: Cornelis Gerritz and Lysbeth Lansing (daughter of Casper Jacobse).
3. Johannes, son of Jan Casperse and Rachel Williams; witnesses: Hendrick Lansing, Elizabeth Ver Wey.

These records are corroboratory of other evidence showing that Lysbeth Lansing and Jan Casperse and the daughter of Casper Jacobse, who married a Ver Wey, were sisters and brother, but they do not prove that Agnietje Caspers, the grandmother of the other infant (Philip) was also their sister. No Hallenbeck was a witness for the Conyn child. True, the latter's witnesses were near relatives who had a prior right to act in that capacity. Once when I was quite confident (relying upon Mr. Van Laer's suggestion) that Agnietje Casperse was a daughter of Casper Jacobse, I thought that perhaps these three baptisms on the same day had been arranged as a great family occasion - a triple baptism of three great grand-

children of Caspar Jacobse. But now I realize that while that may perhaps have been the case, there is no proof of it. Had it been so, it would have been natural for Caspar Jacobse, who was still living in or near Albany, and for Agnietje Casperse to have been witnesses at one of the three baptisms. Neither of them were witnesses at any of them. Of course, there may have been many causes for their not so acting. The important fact is that no Hallenbeck-Casperse was a witness for Philip Conyn, and none of the Conyns (although they were Casperses, - possibly of a different origin) acted as witnesses for either of the other two infants.

Upon the whole, I think that these three records furnish no evidence whatever that Agnietje Casperse was a daughter of Casper Jacobse, and really cast greater doubt upon it.

Without saying positively that she was not, I feel that we must look further for some other Casper, as her father. I have examined records as to Gerritt Bicker, and Grietje Jans, two of the sponsors for Annettie, the infant daughter of Leendert Philipse; but I find in them no clue as to any related Casperses or Conyns. Search by others will be appreciated.

There was in New Amsterdam and Northern New Jersey a Casper Steinmetz (name variously spelled) with many children. I can find no evidence of their being related to Agniet Caspers. (For later research see Addenda pp. 2 and 3).

There are also a number of Caspers mentioned in Tunis Bergen's "History of Kings County (Brooklyn, etc.) Settlers". I have studied this without finding our Agniet. I understand that some Long Island, (N.Y.) Caspers bore the name Springsteen. Several members of it today belong to The Holland Society of New York. If

they or any other person can tell us who was the father of Agniet Caspers, wife of Leendert Phillipse Conyn, I shall be grateful. Mr. Scheirmerhorn thinks she may possibly have been connected with this family, some of whose members at an early date went up the Hudson to Rockland County, New York. Some went as far north as Schenectady, or into the Mohawk Valley. (P.S.Important. See Addenda at the end of this letter).

Remember that even if Agnietje Casperse was not the daughter of Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck), she and her Conyn husband were our ancestors through many lines. We descend from their son, Philip, (two lines), and also from their daughter, Commertje (a very rare Dutch name) who married our ancestor Jan Bronk; and also from another daughter Lysbeth (Elizabeth) who married one of our earliest Whitbeck ancestors. The two other daughters married Cornelis Teunis Van Vechten and a Gansevoort.

You are not directly descended from Caspar Leendertse but, as I have said, from his brother Philip. Yet Caspar Conyn is a remote collateral relative of yours, and whoever may have been the ancestor from whom he got his name - whether it was Caspar Jacobse (Hallenbeck) or some other Caspar, that earlier Casper, as the father of Agnietje Casperse, was your direct ancestor; so possibly the name Casper in America, in some of our ancestral families, goes back even earlier than the probable birth date, 1620 (or earlier) of Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck). Caspar Leendertse had sons and grandsons of that name, all men of prominence.

Marriages of Conyns with Van Vechtens, Bronks and Whitbecks caused the name Casper to appear in those families; just as the marriages of the daughters of old Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck)

brought it into the Lansing, Van Hoesen, and possibly Verwey families. All of these people, the living as well as the dead, are your kinsmen, if you wish to spread the net broadly. You and they and all their descendants all go back to one common ancestor, or if Agnietje Casperse was not the daughter of Casper Jacobse, then to two common ancestors. When these people are not in your direct ancestral line, they are collaterally related to you, even though in most cases very remotely so. You are related to them all; all of them are related to you, although possibly they are not all related to each other.

However, with many of the descendants of old Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck) in male lines - people who have borne and the people who still bear the name Hallenbeck in any of its many forms - your relationship is considerably closer; for marriages of Collier women with Hallenbecks, perhaps as early as the third generation and certainly in the fourth and seventh generations, have multiplied the ties although somewhat complicating them.

For instance, there is some reason to believe that Magdalena, the daughter of our direct ancestor, Michael[2]Collier, by his first wife Engletje Bye (or Byvang) daughter of "Direk the Swede" who lived near Kinderhook, married Caspar Janse Hallenbeck of Loonenburg (now Athens), who was a grandson of the original Casper Jacobse. I once firmly believed this was so because this Casper Janse Hallenbeck and wife Magdalena (her family name not stated in the record) were sponsors for Isaac (the youngest son of Michael 2) who was baptized in 1711, in Zion's Lutheran Church at Loonenburg. Magdalena Collier was the infant's half sister. She would have been about 23

years old at the time. As it was the Dutch custom to have near relatives act as sponsors at baptisms, she, if living, as I suppose she was, would have been a most natural sponsor. Another strong bit of evidence supporting this belief that the wife of Casper Janse Hallenbeck was the Magdalena Collier, is the fact that at the baptism, a few years later, of Martinus "son of Caspar Janse Hallenbeck and his wife Magdalena" (again her family name is not stated) the sponsors were Jan Jansen Hallenbeck (apparently a brother of Casper Janse H.) and Volckie Collier. Now, Volckie was the half sister of Magdalena Collier and about eight or ten years younger. She would have been a most natural sponsor for the infant Martinus, if Magdalena Collier was the mother.

However, I must admit that Mr. Schermerhorn, in his book on the Hallenbeck family, says that the wife of Casper Janse Hallenbeck was "probably" a Madeleine Hallenbeck (daughter of Jacob Casperse H., and first cousin of Casper Janse H.). I admit this is a possibility. Unfortunately there is no positive record statement as to Magdalena's family name, and any conclusion as to it must rest on inference.

How difficult it is to feel certain that one's inference is correct, will be appreciated by the reader when he learns that both Casper Janse Hallenbeck and the Magdalena Hallenbeck, whom Mr. Schermerhorn thinks he married, were first cousins to each other and first cousins to Titje Van Hoesen, the mother of the infant Isaac^{3}Collier at whose baptism "Casper Janse Hallenbeck and wife Magdalena_____" were sponsors.

Mr. Schermerhorn reached his conclusion that this Magdalena was a Hallenbeck without considering the possibility of her being Magdalena Collier, the half sister of the infant. I reached my conclusion many years ago that this half sister was the sponsor (and, therefore, the wife of Casper Janse Hallenbeck) without knowing that there was a Magdalena Hallenbeck; and I felt that the record of the baptism a few years later, of Martinus, son of this Casper Janse and Magdalena_____, with Volckie Collier (half-sister of Magdalena Collier) as a co-sponsor along with a brother of the infant's father, confirmed my inference conclusively; and I so entered it in my Collier records, rather elated to have been able to trace one of the very earliest Collier (Dutch) women born in America, notwithstanding that she, being the daughter of Michael's first wife, was not a direct ancestress of mine; because I, like you, and all the bearers of the Collier name who descend from Michael^2, descend from his second wife, Titje Van Hoesen.

I still think that the nearer the relationship or the more direct the ancestral line, the greater was the likelihood in the Dutch Colonial period of a person being chosen as a sponsor; for instance, I think a sister, even though only a half sister, would have been more likely to have been called upon to act in this capacity - age and social relations being appropriate - than would a cousin of the parent, and Volckie Collier was only a first cousin "once removed" to Casper Janse Hallenbeck and Magdalena Hallenbeck and a second cousin to the infant Martinus. I must, however, admit that an examination of records made by me since my attention has been

called to Mr. Schermerhorn's statement, somewhat weakens my confidence in my earlier inference, although I think the burden of proof now rests upon him.

Normally, if Magdalena[3] Collier was the wife of Casper Janse Hallenbeck, one of their several children should have been named Michael and one Engletje, after her parents; but I find neither of those names in the records nor the name of Titje (or Fitje) her stepmother. It is true, circumstances sometimes caused non-observance of the rule; and there were exceptional circumstances in this case. Her own mother died when Magdalena was so young that she could never have known her, and some of the names given to children of Casper Janse Hallenbeck and wife were names of brothers of Magdalena Collier, although they were also Hallenbeck names.

On the other hand there are some weaknesses in Mr. Schermerhorn's inference that Casper Janse Hallenbeck's wife was Magdalena, the daughter of Jacob Casperse Hallenbeck and his wife Hendrikje. No child of Casper Janse was given the name Hendrikje, and although Jacob Casperse and Hendrikje were sponsors for the second child, it bore the name of neither of them, but was Maria. As the oldest of Casper Janse's paternal uncles, Jacob Casperse was a person very apt to have been asked to be sponsor, although Michael, the father of Magdalena Collier, would have had a greater right if she were the mother. Michael did not act in that capacity nor did any of his sons; but his daughter Volckje did so act for Martinus. Had her mother not been a cousin of both Casper Janse and Magdalena Hal-

lenback I would unhesitatingly say that the presence of a Collier as a sponsor was conclusive evidence that the mother was a Collier. Hollenbecks, with the name Jacob, appeared as sponsors for the children of Casper Janse on one or more occasions, and that name was given to one of the children, yet it must be remembered that that was the name of a brother (half brother) of Magdalene Collier who died in young manhood greatly mourned by the family.

So, the search for further information must go one. Little bits of evidence put together may form the strong chain of convincing proof. At present all statements as to whether or not Casper Janse Hallenbeck's wife was Magdalena Collier are made, subject to confirmation or correction.

But it is certain that a generation later Anna Collier, daughter of Jochem[3] Collier and Christina Vosburg, married William Casperse Hallenbeck, one of the sons of "Casper Janse Hallenbeck and Magdalena, his wife". This William Casperse and wife, Anna, had many children including a Christyntje, baptized in the Lutheran church in 1743, the sponsors or witnesses being the grandparents, Jochem[3]Collier and Christina. There was also an Isaac, baptized in 1750, named doubtless after Anna's grandfather, Isaac Vosburg, but for whom the male sponsor was Isaac[4]Collier (1725-1796) your 4 G. grandfather who was then a young man, perhaps not yet married. A third child of William Casperse Hallenbeck and Anna Collier was Jochem, baptized in 1752, named, of course, after Anna's father, our direct ancestor, who, however, had died one or two years earlier. His widow, Christina was one of the sponsors or witnesses. Some of the records call attention

to the fact that she was a "reformiert", that is, a member of the Reformed Dutch church, and not strictly eligible to act as a sponsor in a Lutheran Church, although sometimes a witness at the baptism.

I have gone into this rather long "Excursus" as to Casper Janse Hallenbeck and his wife, and as to Anna Collier and her husband William Casperse Hallenbeck because, having so many Hallenbeck relatives - so many with your own name Casper - it is natural that you should wish to know how many of them had Collier blood. The number must be legion.

Here it is proper to say that in the spelling of the name Casper (or Caspar) there seems to be the same freedom as in the spelling of the family name Hallenbeck. I have seen very ancient records, apparently the original entries of the dominie, in which it is spelled Caspar, and very ancient copies made with evident care but in which the name has been spelled Casper, and vice versa, and frequently it is Kasper or Kaspar. Personally, I prefer Caspar, as being more like the ancient Greek, Gaspar, one of the Magi, and more suggestive of the etymology of the name, the "Treasure bearer"; but I think our Collier family has used Casper for several generations. The best advice is to stick to the way it was given in your baptismal certificate, or to the way you were taught to spell it. Uniformity is desirable. It is your name. Don't let anyone else attempt to tell you how to spell it.

Now, having shown you the origin and significance of your middle name, Casper, and having told you how, from Casper Jacobse

(Hallenbeck) to whom it was given in about 1620, or possibly a little earlier, it passed into the many families descended from him, Hallenbecks, Lansings, Van Hoesens and possibly Conyns; and if not from him to the Conyns, then from some other source to the Conyns and thence to the Bronks and Whitbecks and affiliated families; and having told you that Casper^{3}Collier (son of Michael^{2} Collier by his wife Tietje Van Hoesen and grandson of Catharine Casperse, wife of Jurrian Janse Van Hoesen), was given this name at baptism on January 4, 1702, in honor of his mother's brother, Caspar Van Hoesen, and her grandfather, old Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck), I will tell you more about its use in the later generations of the Collier family in which it has become the most frequently used name, except Isaac; although Jochem (sometimes spelled by us, Jehoiakim, notwithstanding they are really two different names) is a good "runner up" to Casper.

This Casper^{3}Collier, was baptized at Kinderhook, but later lived in Coxsackie. He had apparently one son, Michael^{4}, and one daughter who married a Dietrich by whom she had about a dozen children. Michael^{4} had a daughter Rachel, who married Jonas Bronk, a brother of Ann Bronk, as to whom see below. I should here say that the figures following the names of persons mentioned in this article refer to the generation to which the person belongs. Thus Casper^{3} means a Casper of the third generation, counting our Progenitor as the first generation. It does not mean that Casper^{3} was the third Casper in the family. On the contrary, he was the first Collier to receive the name.

Casper[3] was not your direct ancestor. He was the third younger brother of Jochem[3], who was your direct ancestor and who had several sons but none of them named Caspers. At least two of this Jochem's sons died in infancy because he had two Michaels and two Jacobs besides Isaac, your A.G.Grandfather, and Johannes, and the daughter Anna, who, as I have said, became the wife of William Casperse Hallenbeck. Upon the death of Jochem, between 1748-1751, Isaac, as the eldest son, inherited his Coxsackie property. We have very much information about Isaac's descendents, down to date, but have not been able to trace his brothers Michael[4], Jacob[4], and Johannes[4], although some unplaced Johns, whose names appear in later records, may perhaps be descended from the last mentioned Johannes.

Moreover, the question has been raised as to whether Jacob[4] (son of Jochem[3]) was the Jacob of evidently about the same age, who married a Maria Van Alstyne, but whom we find in the Mohawk Valley near Stone Arabia, in what is now Montgomery County, near which place lived Johannes[3], a brother of Jochem[3] (son of Michael[2]). This Jacob[4], of Montgomery County, participated in the battle of the Oriskany and his services there are the basis of many a D.A.R. claim by his present day descendants. No record of his birth or parentage can be found in Montgomery County, but the fact that his eldest son was named Johannes or John creates a presumption that he (Jacob) was the son of Johannes[3]. Not one of this Jacob's children or early descendants were named Jochem or Christina. This is strong evidence that he was not their son. Failure to so name them, were he their son,

would show a great estrangement from his parents. There is nothing in the records to justify even a suspicion that his relations with his parents were strained. On the other hand, Jacob^{4}, son of Jochem^{3}, is the only Jacob of record, who would fit the case, and I believe there were numerous Van Alstynes near Kinderhook (possibly a Maria) whom he might have married.

Information which anyone can at any time give on this Jacob's paternity will be greatly appreciated because his military record was excellent. Similar information as to descendants of Michael^{4} and Johannes^{4}, will be appreciated. In fact, I hope that any Collier, Colyer or Collyer who thinks that he may perhaps be related to us, and whose name does not already appear in the Colyer Section of Vols. 2,3 of H. F. Seversmith's "Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut", or in the "Colyer-Collier Family", with notes and comments by me, will communicate with me at my permanent address, C/o National Bank of Auburn, Auburn, New York. If they will give me information as to the names, dates of birth, and place of residence of their ancestors back for three and possibly for four generations, I might easily tell whether they trace back to our Progenitor; although it may be they are of English origin and not related to us at all.

The books that I have mentioned, or abridgments of them, are to be found in most of the great libraries of the country from Boston to California, and from Washington, D. C. to Toronto. Consult also "A Collier-Shattuck Line" which gives a good summary of the first

five generations of Colliers (Dutch) in America; consult also "The Collier Family Chart".

Two of the brothers of Jochem[3] and Casper[3] migrated to "the Maquas Country", the Mohawk Valley; to points in what is now Montgomery County, only about 60 or 80 miles from Coxsackie, but a long distance in those days, 1733-45, and a dangerous country because of Indian hostility. These two brothers (Johannes or Jan, and the Isaac, who was born in 1711) raised large families, some of their descendants going, shortly after the Revolutionary War, to nearby Otsego County. In both these counties, for more than 150 years, Colliers abounded; and today one of the great repositories of information as to Colliers is The Department of History and Archives of Montgomery County, New York, in the old Court House, at Fonda, N.Y. Thanks of all Colliers are due to Mrs. Carol W. Bussing of this Department for the interest which she has taken in collecting, assembling and indexing not only strictly local records but also, occasionally, copies of records from other places when they relate to persons affiliated to residents of Montgomery. Thus it is that information as to Colliers in all the counties of New York state, including Cortland, Cayuga, and Steuben, will be found at Fonda. The same is true of the House of History at Valatie (Kinderhook) N.Y., the old residence of many famous families, now the headquarters of the Columbia Co. Historical Society. Miss Louise Hardenbrook, long an officer of that Society, has been indefatigable and most unselfish in helping us get records as to our ancestors who were amongst the earliest settlers of that ancient Dutch town, such as Jan Thys Goes, Isaac Vosburg, and Michael[2] Collier, all of whom

were there prior to 1683; Michael's brother Jurrian Collier, even prior to 1670. As to the ancestors just mentioned, consult "The History of Old Kinderhook" by Rev. E. A. Collier, who, however, is not related to us.

Incidentally, I would say that Martin Van Buren, who was the "first American-born President of the United States" (the first one born under the American flag, his predecessors all having been born in Colonial days under the English flag) was a second cousin of Isaac[4] Collier, your 4 G. grandfather.

We are also remotely related to Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, like us, had not only Dutch ancestors but also Huguenot ancestors, who, however, came to New Netherlands when it was under Dutch dominion and settled at what are now Hurley and New Paltz, N.Y. We, like former President Franklin D. Roosevelt, are descended from one of those French immigrants, Antoine Crepel (Crispell), son-in-law of Mathieu Blanchan. Antoine was married twice; we descend from the first wife, and Franklin D. Roosevelt from the second. So in figuring out the degree of our distant cousinship with him, in order to see how much blood we have in common, I suppose we will have to divide it by 2. The result will probably be a quite homeopathic solution, and can do you no harm. Indeed, if it makes you feel that you have the Presidency in your blood, you may perhaps some day occupy the White House. If so, I hope to attend your inauguration.

Although two of the brothers of Casper[3] Collier migrated to the Valley of the Mohawk, and there and in adjoining Otsego County, propogated prolifically, Casper remained in Coxsackie,

whose name is said to have been a Dutch rendering of Indian words meaning "the hooting of owls". Nowadays it is pronounced "Cook-sock-ee". The early records show some extraordinary spelling of the name. A few days ago, on examining some original entries of 1704-1726, I found it spelled "Kochsaghki". Pronounce it exactly as it is spelled.

Jochem[3], Casper's brother, died about 1749 or 1750; but Casper lived on. Just when he died, I do not know, but he attained quite an advanced age and became a sort of Nestor of the family.

In those colonial days one of the duties and one of the Prerogatives of the Eldest members of a family was to act as a Getuygen - a sponsor or witness at the baptism of the new-born accretions. If they were his direct descendants, they quite frequently received his name. Thus it is that we find that Casper[3], after acting as sponsor for Michael 4, son of his brother, Jochem[3], and for Rachel[5], daughter of his <u>own</u> son Michael[4] - and I think for several other Colliers as well as Dietrichs - gave his patriarchal blessing by acting as sponsor on January 8, 1769, according to the records of the Coxsackie "First Reformed Dutch Church" (the one in the "Upper" Village), at the baptism of his grandnephew and namesake Casper, son of Isaac[4] Collier and Sarah Van Vechten, and direct ancestor of you and me. There is a little discrepancy between the date in the church record (Jan.8th) and the figures given on the gravestone of this Casper, which says: "died Apr. 20, 1850, aged 81 years, 2 mos. and 22 days", which if correct, would mean that he was born on Jan. 28, 1769. Whether the error was in the church

records (which at that time had many patent errors) or was in the calculations of days, or in the engraving on the gravestone, I cannot say. It is really a matter of little consequence because identification of this Casper[5] is positive and indisputable. Where we have so many Colliers with the same first name it is sometimes quite important to have dates concerning them stated exactly. Accuracy is the first desideratum in Genealogical statement.

Caspar[5] Collier married Anne Bron(c)k, above mentioned. She was the daughter of Philip Bronk who was a patriot captain in the Revolutionary War. He is a good claim for any members of the distaff side of our family who wish to join the D.A.R.

The Bronks are one of the oldest colonial families in the vicinity of old Albany Co., with prominent representatives throughout the State. They were particularly strong in Greene Co. They all trace back to Peter Bronk who was in Beverwyck (now Albany) in about 1644-5, and who later moved to Coxsackie. It was long thought by all the Bronks that this Peter to whom I have referred was the son of Jonas Bronk, one of the first settlers in New Netherlands, who established his home called "Emaus" on the north bank of the Harlem River. From him came the name of the present County and Borough, the Bronx. He was a Colonist of the finest social standing, highly educated. He left a fine classical library. At his home a treaty of peace was signed by the Indians, which is the subject of a fine painting in the possession of one of the great Land Title companies of New York, but soon the Indians broke the treaty, attacked Jonas Bronk's house

and he was killed in the affray in 1643.

There were many reasons to believe that Pieter Bronk was his son. Pieter assisted the appraisers of the estate of Jonas. His name appears on the inventory. He unquestionably aided the widow in showing the property to the appraisers. Furthermore, there is one record in which Pieter Bron(c)k, appears as Pieter Jonassen Bronck, that is, Pieter the son of Jonas.

So, it is not strange that all Bron(c)ks thought that they were descended from Jonas Bron(c)k. Several patriotic societies had approved this lineage, and had admitted Bron(c)ks as members on it. My brother and I felt great pride in having such an ancestor. I understand the Bronk house at Coxsackie, which is used by the Greene Co. Historical Society, was supposed to commemorate him.

Then, came the disappointment of learning that Pieter Bronk was not a son of that Jonas, although without doubt a near relation, possibly a brother; Jonas himself may have been the son of an earlier Jonas, although there is no certainty as to that. The revelation of the error was made when Dr. A. J. F. Van Laer, former State Archivist, and the acknowledged authority on Dutch settlers in old Albany Co., found a manuscript will of Pieter Bronck, made on Nov. 4, 1643 several months after the death of Jonas Bronk, in which Pieter said that his parents were still living in Europe, too far away for them to come to get his property; so he left it to Engletje Mans, the wife of Burger Joris. Mr. Van Laer published an abstract of the translation of the will

in one of the New York papers. I had had quite a correspondence with him in previous years as to other genealogical problems, and I wrote him again as to this will and its translation. He very courteously but firmly repeated and reaffirmed the statements that he had made in the press. So, quite reluctantly, my brother and I gave up our claims to direct descent from that Jonas Bronk, and tried to find consolation in the fact that we were undoubtedly related to him, at least, collaterally. I was not altogether unprepared for the blow because I had found out that the wife of Jonas Bron(c)k upon her death left no property to Pieter Bronk, and did not even mention him. It was evident that he was not her son; I still thought that he might have been the son of Jonas by an earlier wife, but Mr. Van Laer's discovery showed that that was not so. See N.Y. Colonial Manuscripts, Vol. II.

The question, while it was in dispute, became almost an international incident. The story is so interesting that I venture to tell it to you despite the fact that this letter has assumed the dimensions of a treatise.

During World War II, Queen Elizabeth of England was visiting an American military hospital in that country. Passing the cot of a wounded soldier, she said to him: "From what part of America do you come?" He replied: "From the Bronx". The Queen said: "What a funny name; where did they get it"? The wounded soldier did not know. The Queen's visit and her question as to the Bronx, were reported in the American newspapers, and several people wrote to the papers that it was named in honor of Jonas Bron(c)k, who had a son Peter Bronk, and many descendants. Then

came Mr. Van Laer's letter showing that Pieter was not the son of this Jonas, and that none of the Bron(c)ks in America were direct descendants of Jonas.

So Ann Bronck, wife of Casper[5] Collier, although bringing with her a most creditable pedigree, reaching back to Peter Bronk, did not make us direct descendants of the Jonas Bronck of "Emmaus" on the Harlem. But she did bring to Casper[5] the help of family influences, so that with his own native ability and the inheritance of good health from his father, Isaac[4], (who was legendary for strength), he lived a long and happy and useful life.

Casper[5] lived longer than any of the Colliers in the eight generations in the direct lines of myself and of Anna Collier, your grandmother, except myself and possibly Michael[2] Collier, my 4 G. Grandfather, who may perhaps have reached 83 years, although it is not certain that he reached 77 years. I have been told that your great uncle, Edward Lampman Collier, was born Oct. 26, 1859, and died Oct. 2, 1945. If so, he was nearly 86 years old at his death. My impression was that he died before 1945. In any case, he was not the direct ancestor of either myself or your grandmother. He was her brother.

As for myself, I am today, August 5th, 1949, as I write, 81 years, 8 months, 25 days, thankful to God for so many years and so much happiness in them. I was born Nov. 11, 1867.
(See Addenda, dated Dec. 21, 1949)

What I have said as to longevity amongst Colliers, refers only to the direct Collier lines of your grandmother and myself. A brother of Casper[5] Collier, Dirck (who settled in Steuben County

where his first name was anglicized into Richard), reached 90 years; and another brother, Johannes (John), who settled in Cortland County, was over 92 when he died. Moreover, as I have said, these remarks on Collier longevity relate only to our direct Collier ancestors in the male line. They do not include Direct ancestors of ours through Collier wives. For instance, our direct ancestor, Isaac Vosburgh, father of Christina, wife of Jochem[3] Collier, is said by Royden V. Vosburg, very good genealogical authority, to have reached the age of 103 or 105 years. It seems too good to be true. But he died about 187 years ago. Requiescat in pace.

To revert to Casper[5] Collier - in his 81st years, he won the respect and confidence of the community and acquired more than a local reputation. He was active in the State militia and was successively promoted and became a Lieutenant Colonel. He added credit to the name of Casper and his career did much to revive its use. He had five sons, one of whom died in infancy. Those who survived were Philip, Isaac, Jehoiakim and Jones. Loyal to the Dutch custom, everyone of these had Caspersc as a middle name, and, without exception, all of them when grown up and married, named at least one son Casper in honor of their father, Lt. Col. Casper[5] Collier.

Thus, it was that Philip[6] Casper named his eldest son Casper Philip. He became a very eminent lawyer in Hudson, N. Y., prominent throughout the State.

Isaac[6] Casper Collier, grandfather of Anna (Collier) McClure and myself, named one of his four sons, Casper Isaac Collier.

He is your (John Casper McClure's) great grandfather, and I suppose you are named in his honor. It is an honor to you to bear his name for he was one of Coxsackie's most worthy and highly respected citizens, successful as a merchant and, if my memory is not at fault, a director of the local bank or trustee of the Savings Bank. He was correct in habits, a man of self-control, active in support of church and all civic enterprises. My recollection is that he was Superintendent of the Sunday School for about 25 years.

He had a beautiful home with extensive grounds, well fruited with berry bushes and small trees. It had a splendid view of the Hudson River. In my boyhood days, more than 70 years ago, from 1875 to 1878, I was frequently a guest there, and at the James Lampmans. Very happy were the days spent by me with Uncle James and Aunt "Fanny" (Miranda), and their three sons, Frank, "Collie" (Isaac Collier Lampman) and Jay, who were all about my age. Aunt Fanny was one of the most affectionate and kindhearted women that I have ever known. Yet no less happy were the days that I spent with Uncle Casper and Aunt Delia, notwithstanding that their sons and daughter were many years older than I. Aunt Delia was always very generous in allowing me to eat berries, cherries and other fruits in the garden, and I delighted to sit on the broad piazzas of the house and watch the steamships going up and down the river. Uncle Casper and Uncle James were double brothers-in-law. Casper married Delia Lampman, whose brother, James, married Miranda, the youngest of the six sisters of Casper and my father.

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Uncle Casper, your great grandfather, wore a wig, and it was always faultlessly arranged, as were the clothes that he wore. I would say that he was about 5 feet, 8 inches in height, and about 160 pounds in weight. He did not drink, nor was he an excessive smoker, although I think late in life he smoked regularly, although moderately. By his brothers and more intimate cronies he was often called "Cop", but not infrequently even by them and quite generally in the community, "C.I.". the initials of his name, Casper Isaac. For many years he had as a partner his nephew, Philip J. Wolfe, father of Rose Wolfe Bergman, who has helped me very much by furnishing information about that branch of the family.

Jehoiakim[6] Collier, son of Lt.Colonel Casper[5] lived in Coxsackie; he had several sons and daughters, including a Casper[7]. Unfortunately, while I have records of the births and marriages of all his children, I lack complete information as to his grandchildren and later descendants. I shall be grateful to anyone who at any time will send to me at my address (Auburn, N. Y., c/o National Bank) any information about any of them, supplementary to what is contained in the Supplementary Information in the books on the Colyer-Collier family by Mr. Severnsmith, or the notes by me relating to the family.

The Jehoiakim[6], just mentioned, was, throughout his life I believe, known as Jehoiakim, and his name was so spelled, although I believe he was baptized as Jochem. His uncle "Jehoiakim[5]", eldest son of Isaac[4] Collier, was also generally called "Jehoiakim", but sometimes Jochem. In fact, both of them are considered in the family to be bearers of the name of the Progenitor, Jochem. In that form,

"Jochem", it was borne by 4 grandsons of the Progenitor, sons of Jurrian^{2}, Michael^{2} and Jacobus^{2}, and a son of Dorothy^{2} Collier Ver Schuur. Under the Dutch Colonial practice of giving to an infant its grandfather's (father's father's) name, it should appear at least in every other generation. We have already seen that in one form or the other, it has been borne by Colliers in generations 1, 3, 5 and 6, and, in the next paragraph, it will be mentioned in Generation 7.

Jonas^{6} Collier, of Coxsackie, youngest son of Lt. Col. Casper^{5}Collier had many children. One of them, Gerritt Sager Collier was a highly successful lawyer and banker in Kinderhook, and his sons and grandsons have all achieved distinction.

Jonas^{6} also had a son Casper, who married Rachel Armstrong, and by her had 15 children. All three of the oft-recurrent Collier names - Isaac, Jochem (Jehoiakim) and Casper - appear in the list of the descendants of this Casper and Rachel, sometimes separately, sometimes in combination. Our information as to them is very complete, and is being kept quite up to date by the indefatigable efforts of my young cousin, Miss Jane Collier, daughter of Charles A. Collier (address, R.D. 2 Hudson, N.Y.), who has given a great deal of time and work to the subject, but apparently without neglect of her studies, for she has just won a valuable competitive scholarship in Barnard College, Columbia University, New York City. Thanks also are tendered to Mrs. Isaac Collier, of Coxsackie, who gave me a great deal of most valuable information about this branch of the family.

Now, having shown what splendid name Casper is, and how Colliers, and their affiliates of the Hallenback, Conyn, Bron(c)k and Van Hoesen families have creditably borne it in America, generation after generation, since 1620 or earlier, I hope they will continue the custom. It is a privilege and a duty. It is an inheritance as well as an obligation. So with the very best wishes to all my kinsmen of all these and allied families, I hope they will "carry on" and perpetuate our good old Collier names. Casper is one of the finest, and how well it links with John, one of the most recurrent names in our family; how well it links with Michael, the military angel of the Heavenly Host, or with Jochem, or Isaac.

Don't be bluffed or spoofed about the name Casper because a cartoonist has given it to Mr. Milquetoast. The original Gaspar, who traversed Continents as he followed the Star to Bethlehem, was no coward and no weakling.

The cartoonist's stock in trade is ridicule and derision. The livery of Heaven is sometimes stolen to serve the devil in; and names are often misapplied. Even the name of the Lord is often taken in vain. It is easy to make fun of a name if you know nothing about its origin, its meaning and its honorable associations and the distinction of those who have borne it.

There are few things that men know so little about as names. Zebulon Vance, a former Senator from North Carolina, was fond of telling about an ignorant mountaineer whom he met while campaigning. He asked him: "Did you ever hear of George Washington?" "No." "Did you ever hear of Thomas Jefferson?" "No." "Well, did

you ever hear of God?" "Well, I don't know him, but I've Heard of him; his last name is Damn."

Moral: Know your name; keep it respected; keep it going from generation to generation. Casper, seeker of the truth, follower of the Guiding Star; let the name ring out and ring on through the ages!

Now, a suggestion:

Why not start "The Book of Casper"? Get a good, nicely bound 3 ring binder. Put on appropriate label on it.

Put this letter in it, if you wish, as an introduction to it.

Collect all the pictures of The Magi or Wise Men that you can. Arrange them in it with ample room for you to enter name of the painter (if you can find out who he was and in what museum or gallery the picture is). From time to time you will get more information. That is why I suggest a loose leaf book. At Christmas time you can get lots of cards with the Wise Men pictured on them. If your friends know you are interested in them, they will send them to you. The Reference Department of any great library (Chicago, for instance) will gladly help you get information as to the painters of the pictures and the galleries where they are.

Also keep track of famous men, living or dead, who were named Casper in any of its forms. At the moment I recall only Gaspard de Coligny, the great French admiral, leader of the

Huguenots, who was killed in the massacre of St. Bartholomew. There must be other famous Caspers. Give each one of them a page in your book, or a half page. Note his biography in it. If you get copies of his picture, put them in with all the information that you can get about him. The reference department of libraries will probably take an interest in your book, and from time to time give you matter to insert.

It is an interesting subject. If I am not mistaken, at a certain period, families - possibly royal families - gave to their children, as one name, all three of the names of the Wise Men, Casper-Melchior-Belthazer, - quite a mouthful, but mellifluous. In the vernacular of the day it tastes like honey in the mouth.

Some other Collier names - it is almost impossible for a Dutch Collier to hear the name Casper without thinking also of Isaac, for some of the Caspers were Isaacses (sons of Isaac); and several of the Isaacs were Casperses (sons of Casper).

Don't let anybody "guy" you about the name Casper; nor that other great Collier name, Isaac. Don't let anyone try to make you think that Isaac is exclusively Jewish. It is one of many good things that we have gotten from the Jews. With the Colliers - whether Dutch or English - it is more frequent even than Casper. Michael[2] had two sons of that name - one died in infancy. Jochem[3] had Isaac[4], my great-great-grandfather, who inherited it from Isaac Vosburgh, his maternal grandfather, the man who lived to be over a hundred years old.

Isaac[4] Collier had seven sons and four daughters. His sons, all of whom grew up to maturity, married and had several

children. They peopled the Earth, or at least that part of it around Coxsackie, with Isaacs. Everyone of Isaac's seven sons, except one, had at least one son named Isaac. If an infant Isaac died, a later born brother was given the same name. At one time Coxsackie alone had at least ten Isaac Colliers, and there were more, then or soon thereafter, cousins of various degrees, in Montgomery, Otsego, Cortland, Cayuga and Steuben Counties, N.Y. And Collier daughters, on marrying, gave their sons the name Isaac.

Casper[5] Collier had two Isaacs, one dying in infancy; the other became the grandfather of your grandmother and myself. My own father was Rev. Isaac Henry Collier (1834-1881) and one of his elder brothers, your great grandfather, was Casper Isaac Collier. A son of his was Isaac Clement ("Clem") Collier and first cousins of ours were Isaac Collier Wolfe and Isaac Collier Lampman. I rarely go over even a part of the long list without pinching myself to see whether I am a Jew. I do not think there is any Jewish blood in me, but were there, I should always recall with pride that Holland's greatest glory was religious toleration, political liberty and freedom from racial oppression.

Isaac is "a good name, greatly to be chosen" by Gentiles as well as by the Chosen People.

The hero of World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhauer, is affectionately known as "Ike", and the pages of history in all ages are spangled with Isaacs. Protestants sing the hymns of Isaac Watts; and men of learning still recognise Sir Isaac Newton as one of the greatest intellects of all time; and those who need rest and recrea-

tion find it in fishing according to the precepts of Isaak Walton in his "Compleat Angler".

We Colliers may also well glory in the name Michael; for Michael[2] (sometimes Michiel) Collier is the direct ancestor of at least two thirds of all the Colliers-Colyers mentioned in our family book. Moreover, through Dirck Theunisse Van Vechten, who married Jannetje Michelje Vreeland, we get the name Michael by direct descent from her father Michael Janse, who was one of the "Council of Nine" in the days of Gov. Kiefft, before Pieter Stuyvesant. This Michael Janse (Vrelandt) was born in 1610 in Schrabbekerke, Beveland, Zeeland. Does that sound like Irish to you? The Irish have not an absolute monopoly on the name Michael. It appears amongst all races from Russia to Spain; from Ireland to Italy. Indeed one of the greatest of all Italian men of art - painter, sculptor, architect - was Michel Angelo, and, as Dutchmen, we are jubilant as we recall the great Dutch admiral, who sailed up the Medway and Thames to Rochester and Gravesend carrying terror to London itself,- De Ruyter. It is not necessary to tell a Dutchman what that man's first name was.

Caution: No reader of this article should think it is a complete genealogical statement as to any of the persons mentioned in it. It was written primarily to explain about the use of the name Casper in the Collier and affiliated families. When I say that Michael[2] (for instance) had two sons named Isaac and one named Casper, it by no means implies that he did not have other children.

With very best wishes to all my kinsmen, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William Miller Collier

READ ADDENDA THAT FOLLOWS THIS PAGE.

A D D E N D A

December 21, 1949

The foregoing letter was written on August 5th, 1949. Donald C. McClure (father of the addressee) to whom it was submitted, kindly expressed the wish to have it typewritten and manifolded and distributed to certain interested parties.

Much of my time since that date has been spent in a review of the original letter, and in further efforts to find records as to who was the father of Agniet (Angenietje) Casperse, the wife of Leendert Philipse Conyn.

I have renewed my correspondence with Mr. Van Laer. He is now of the opinion that she was not the daughter of Casper Jacobse Hallenbeck - a view always taken by Mr. Schermerhorn, and the conclusion reached by me in the original letter.

With the help of Mr. Schermerhorn and Andrew J. Provost, Jr., a thorough study has been made as to the possibility of her being the daughter of Caspar Springsteen, whose widow, late in 1652, married Jan Janszen van Groeningen in the New York Dutch church. She had arrived in New Amsterdam from Holland that year. Records show that she and Caspar had three sons: Johannes, Joost and Melle (Melchior). They were early settlers at Harlem and at Newtown (Bushwick) L.I. James Riker in his "History of Harlem", and his "Annals of Newtown", makes many references to them, and lists their children and later descendants. Some of them named sons, Casper, after their father, and that name recurred constantly in later generations; and amongst certain descendants of daughters (Provosts for example) took the form of Jasper. James Riker gives the records as to these

descendants very fully; even asserting that he had enough material about them to make a family book. However, in no generation do we find mention of any daughter named Agniet, or any of its equivalents, and there is no justification in supposing that the one in whom we are interested belonged to or descended from that family. Mr. Schermerhorn, who has made a study of it, because of remote collateral relationship to it, and who once thought there might possibly be an early connection with the Conyns, no longer thinks so.

I have made an intensive study of another family; that of Casper Steynmets (name variantly spelled). There are many references to him in the New Amsterdam Records, and in those of the Dutch Church of that place, and in those of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen (now Jersey City), published as Vol. IV. of the Collections of the Holland Society. In the last mentioned book appear not only many records as to his children and grandchildren, born after his removal from New Amsterdam to Ahasimus, in the vicinity of Bergen; but also a full biographical sketch of him showing his activities and his standing in the community.

This Caspar Steynmets was married three times. By his first wife he had, as his first son, a Caspar, baptized in 1650. Years later, by another wife, he had another Casper, very good evidence that Caspar Steynmets himself was the son of a Caspar. His eldest daughter was an Annetie; and so frequently does that name recur amongst his grandchildren in such a way as to justify the inference that it was the name of the mother of Caspar Steynmets,

that no other conclusion seems reasonable.

None of his wives were named Annetie. His second wife, mother of most of his children, was a Jannetje Gerrits. There are many things in the records that suggest the possibility that she was related to Gerritt Bickers, who was the male sponsor for Annetie, the daughter of Leendert Philipse, for whom Agniet Caspers (later, if not then, the wife of Leendert Philipse Conyn) appears on the record as one of two female sponsors. There are also a few things in the records that seem to show that there was intimacy of associations, if not blood relationship, between members of the Steynmets family and Grietje Jans, who was the other female sponsor of Annetje, daughter of Leendert Philipse.

A most important fact is that three of the grandchildren of Agniet Casperse Conyn were named Annetie. I feel confident that that was the name of Agniet's mother. As both she and Casper Steynmets apparently were the children of a Casper and of an Annetie; as they both were living in New Amsterdam in 1650 and 1652, both probably having children born there in that period, I think the reasonable inference is that they were brother and sister, and that we, through this Agniet Casperse, are descended from a Casper and an Annetie who were also the parents of Casper Steynmets.

It is quite certain that we have only one line of descent (not five) leading back to Casper Jacobse (Hallenbeck); but that is glory enough for him and for us.

If the original letter of August 5th is read in connection with this addenda, I do not think that any corrections or deletion is necessary. That letter was written as a study of various questions upon which eminent authorities advanced different views. No errors of statement were made. The records cited, all refer to persons related to me and to the addressee of the letter, although as to their relationship to each other, authorities advanced different opinions. The conclusions reached will, I believe, be more acceptable because every reader can see that the study of the matters has been complete, candid and conscientious. Therefore, what I have written, I have written!

I feel that this letter must be my valedictory as a family geneologist. Health and strength do not permit a continuance of the work that I have been doing for many years. I am quite proud to be the Nestor of the family. I am today (Dec. 21, 1949) 82 years, 1 month and 10 days old. I wish to reiterate my thanks to all who have helped me. Some branches of the family, little known by others six years ago, like the Colliers of Steuben County, are now fully of record, thanks largely to the efforts of Alberta Collier (now Mrs. Leonard McCrea) of Avoca, and of E. Charles Smith of the same town, and Morey Skinkle of Bath, N.Y.; and Marquis E. Shattuck, of Detroit.

Day after tomorrow, Dec. 23, 1949, with my wife, I sail for South Africa. It is not for pleasure or for travel, although I hope the journey will be enjoyable. The serious condition of health of a dear friend is what prompts us to undertake the long voyage. We expect to return in May.

I go to a land in which the Dutch and some of their French co-religionaires were making settlements at just about the time that Dutchmen (with some French companions) were settling in New Netherlands. For, Dutchmen pushed from Europe, South and East, as well as to the Western world. The conditions under which they had to develop their respective settlements, differed considerably. Those who came to New Netherlands were following the Star of Destiny which, Westward was taking its course towards a New World. Those who went to Southern Africa were still in that great land-mass which we call the Eastern Hemisphere. Within its almost limitless area, there were many differences of climate and culture and civilization; yet, in a large and perhaps, somewhat loose manner, we still speak of it all as the "East". Nowhere are its problems more acute and pressing than in Africa. Nowhere will their solution have a greater effect upon the future of the Human Race.

To all my kinsmen, then, I say not Farewell but

Au Revoir

East is East and West is West
Let us strive to make our Native land the best.
East is East and West is West,
Free men must prepare for every test.

East is East and West is West,
Speed the day the twain shall meet!
Wher-e'er on Earth we go on wandering feet,
The goal of all mankind is God's great Mercy Seat.

Oceans once were wide, and Africa remote,
But now, return to Home is quick by air or boat.
Through Space and Time, instant, constant is the
Father's watchful care,
And Comfort comes when loving friends remember
us in prayer.

WILLIAM MILLER COLLIER

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State Dept. of History and Archives,
Des Moines, Iowa.
Librarian & Genealogist:

Dear Miss Garretson.

In re "Casper" &c: Yours of Aug 8, is just at hand. As there are no pages 115-118 in my article; nor any pages as A 1 - A 2 (although there is an Addenda of 5 pages); nor any mention by me of Part I. I fear that the people at Rockford, Ill., who did the mimeographing and mailing may possibly have made a mistake in the copy of the pamphlet and got a lot of Notes, and/or in 8 pages of corrections sent you about July 6.

To make sure, I enclose herein a Xerox copy of the 8 pages that I sent in with kindly attention to me, the corrections that was originally sent to you and dated July 6. The 8 pages that was sent in July, also. Your prompt attention will be appreciated for my files.

Yours truly,

K. E. Whitehill

Kenneth E. Whitehill

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